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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,918	01/11/2002	Ramesh Pendakur	42390P11552	7242

8791 7590 10/02/2007  
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN  
1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY  
SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040

EXAMINER

LI, GUANG W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2146	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
10/02/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/043,918	<b>Applicant(s)</b> PENDAKUR, RAMESH	
	<b>Examiner</b> Guang Li	<b>Art Unit</b> 2146	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on IDS 02/23/2007.
- 2a)  This action is FINAL.
- 2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4)  Claim(s) 1-3,5,16 and 19-27 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) 1-3,5,16 and 19-27 is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.
  - Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
  - Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some \*    c)  None of:
    - 1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    - 2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    - 3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/23/2007.
- 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. The allowance of claims 1-3, 5,16 and 19-27 are hereby withdrawn in view of newly discovered prior art.

#### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/9/07 has been entered.

#### **Oath/Declaration**

3. The applicant's oath/declaration has been reviewed by the examiner and is found to conform to the requirements prescribed in 37 C.F.R. 1.63.

#### **Information Disclosure Statement**

4. As required by **M.P.E.P. 609(C)**, the applicant's submissions of the Information Disclosure Statements dated 02/23/2007 is acknowledged by the examiner and the cited references have been considered in the examination of the claims now pending. As required by **M.P.E.P 609 C(2)**, a copy of the PTOL-1449 initialed.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2146

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-3, 5, 16 and 19-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bookman (U.S. 2003/0050929) in view of Ellis et al. (US 2004/0117831 A1).
7. Regarding 1-3, 5, 16 and 19-27, Bookman teaches a system/method comprising:
- receiving content from one or more content sources; (150; 700)
  - distributing metadata dictionary to a plurality of network nodes, wherein the metadata dictionary comprises content descriptors; (¶[0091 ], [0106], [0113])
  - receiving subscription information from the plurality of network nodes; (¶[0043])
  - aggregating the subscription information to form a rating survey including user data having one or more of user preferences, user needs, and user interest levels, wherein the rating survey is to maximize allocation of bandwidth; (¶[0037], [0077], [0079], [0093])
  - distributing the aggregated content stream to a plurality of filtering network nodes, wherein the aggregated content stream is filtered via filtering hubs located at the plurality of filtering network nodes; (710; "Categorizer")
  - generating a plurality of user profiles comprising the plurality of subscription information; associating the content descriptors with the plurality of user profiles; saving the user profiles; generating a plurality of personalized content streams based on the plurality of user profiles by dividing the aggregated content stream

into the plurality of personalized content streams; and providing the plurality of personalized content streams to the plurality of receiving network nodes.

(¶[0047])

- wherein the generating the plurality of personalized content streams comprises filtering the aggregated content stream by comparing the aggregated content stream with the plurality of user profiles. (¶[0047])
- providing the plurality of personalized content streams to the plurality of corresponding users. (¶[0047])
- wherein the subscription information comprises a plurality of content rating data, wherein the plurality of content rating data indicates interest-level of the plurality of the users relating to the content. (¶[0009])

8. Bookman does not explicitly disclose matching the content and the subscription information to form an aggregate content bit for the plurality of network nodes; creating a rating survey via the subscription information, the rating survey to maximize allocation of bandwidth, the rating survey including user data.

9. Ellis teaches matching the content and the subscription information (Find Always The guide displays programs Similar that are similar to the selected program, or displays a list of attributes of the selected program and allows the user to choose from among them to find matching program see ¶[0129]) to form an aggregate content bit for the plurality of network nodes (A family niche hub or other hub of the present invention may provide the user with an opportunity to enter personal profiles with different levels

Art Unit: 2146

of rating restrictions for various viewers (e.g., family members) and other personal preferences see ¶[0201]);

creating a rating survey via the subscription information (If a program is selected, for example from listing screen 140 of FIG. 6 or from an interactive advertisement (e.g., 104A-C), the program guide may display, for example, Program Information screen 150, such as shown in FIG. 7. This screen may include the name of the program (possibly editorially shorted to fit into the screen space available), the rating of the program, the start time and run time of the program, the channel on which the program is being shown, and other details about the program, such as the price and package information see ¶[0128]),

the rating survey to maximize allocation of bandwidth (Dedicated digital or analog channels, or at least an allocated portion of the available bandwidth in communications paths 24, may be used for the transmission of certain types of data (e.g., video-on-demand programs, chat messages, etc. see ¶[0096]),

the rating survey including user data (Rate Ratings are being Allows the user to rate this collected for this program, and to send that rating program see ¶[0129]). Ellis further provides the advantage of a system for providing interactive television program guide features and other features and information related to a specific user interest or programming category in niche hubs (see abstract).

Art Unit: 2146

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Bookman and Ellis before them at the time the invention was made to modify the interactive content distribution system of Bookman to include matching the content with subscription information, creating rating user data survey to allocation of bandwidth as taught by Ellis.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make this modification in order to provide an efficient and effective way to distribute contents over to network nodes in view of Ellis.

### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Guang Li whose telephone number is (571) 270-1897. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-5:00PM(EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Pwu can be reached on (571) 272-6798. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

September 18, 2007  
Guang Li  
Patent Examiner

